



July 2019



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Happy Birthday, America!

July is one of my favorite months. Like most of you, I enjoy celebrating multiple holidays, but more importantly I appreciate WHAT we are celebrating. Patriotism is often forgotten as we scurry through our daily lives; going to work, school, the gym, the grocery store, church, and then doing it all over again the next week. During this patriotic month, I appreciate the opportunity to stop for a moment and express gratitude for our country and the freedom that we have. The freedom that we enjoy today can be attributed to the hard work, sacrifice, and foresight of previous generations.

As I think about the United States we're living in today, it's hard to imagine what it may have been like during colonial times. Our forefathers had visionary leadership, courage, and a strong commitment to creating a new country. They sought better living conditions, relief from oppressive governments, religious freedom, and vast opportunities for those brave enough to set out on a new adventure. People from all around the world were willing to leave everything behind to come to America, the "land of opportunity."

There are certainly parallels between establishing a new country, a new state, and even a new city. We know that early settlers in Utah traveled west for many of the same reasons that early immigrants were drawn to America. The settlement that became Murray City is no exception. In the mid-to-late 1800s, settlers like the Berger family moved to the area to raise crops and cattle. Benefitting from the Territorial Road, now known as State Street, running through the center of the valley, the town soon began to take form. Harry Haynes established several businesses on the west side of State Street between 5000 and 5050 South, including a flour and feed store, a billiard hall, a clothing store, and a post office. Businessman John P. Cahoon also settled in Murray. He was instrumental in the construction of the Commercial Hall, also known as the Murray Opera House, at 5010 S. State Street, a commercial block known as The Hub located at 4986-4988 South State, and of course the Cahoon Mansion, now known as the Murray Mansion, located on Poplar Street.



It didn't take long for the smelting industry to take hold in the area, around the same time that the Utah Central Railroad (sometimes called the Utah Southern in the Murray area) was extended from Salt Lake City to Sandy in the early 1870s. The Germania Smelting and Refining Company, along with Hanauer Smelting Works, were the early smelters built in Murray. Brickmaking was also a successful industry here, with Simeon Atwood operating a prosperous brickyard near 150 E. Vine Street. John P. Wright set up a tailoring shop, and Nephi McCleery set up a cobbler shop in their respective homes on "Territorial Road." Charles Thied opened a saloon on Second West and Bonneyview Street. These industrious and hard-working residents are only a few of the many settlers that made Murray City their home. All of the early citizens in this community contributed to the independent, inclusive, and efficient city that we enjoy today.

I am extremely grateful to the patriots who have fought for this great country! I also appreciate those early settlers of our State and City. I hope that during this month of celebration, we can all take a moment to recognize the sacrifices made by our predecessors and appreciate the freedom that is so easy to take for granted. I hope you enjoy celebrating America's birthday with your family and friends!